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Evacuation Routes Sinking in LA

(Baton Rouge-AP) -- Some of Louisiana's main evacuation routes are sinking at an alarming rate. Roy Dokka, director of the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center, says he's checking one of those routes this week to see just how fast and how far it has sunk.

The route in question is Louisiana Highway One -- the only way out of Grand Isle by car or truck. Dokka says that highway is one-to-two feet lower than it was in the early 1980s. He says many evacuation routes flooded faster during Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili than they had before.

LSU and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Geodetic Survey are working together on the survey, which began Saturday and is expected to take about a week to complete.

Global positioning system equipment along Louisiana Highway One and mounted on a truck will check the road's elevation from Grand Isle to Raceland, where it intersects with U.S. Highway 90.

The study is a demonstration project to see whether other coastal evacuation routes should be checked.



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